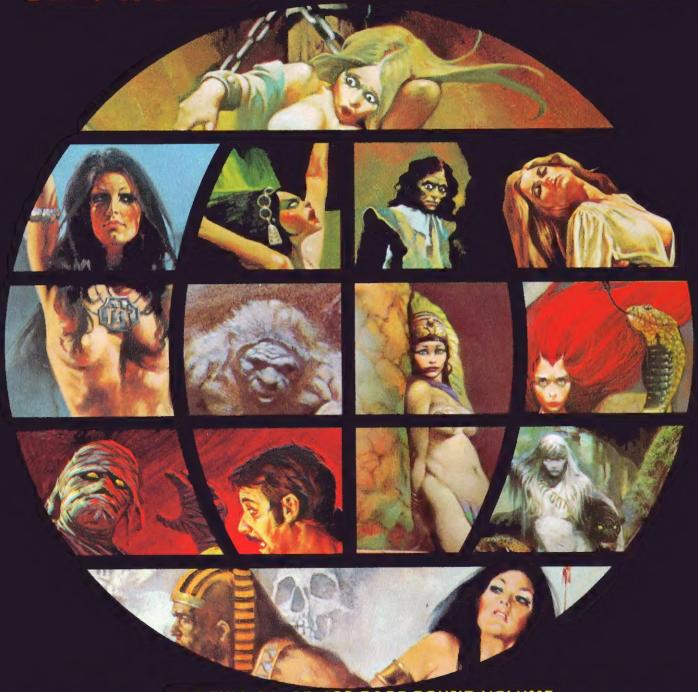




PROUDLY INTRODUCES AN EXCITING NEW IDEA IN COMIC ART! E WORLD'S GREATEST TALENT THE WORLD'S



IN A FULL COLOR 120 PAGE BOUND VOLUME
OF THE MOST GRAPHICALLY EXCITING ILLUSTRATED STORIES IN THE WORLD!



SEE OUR DRACULA AD ON THE INSIDE BACK COVER OF THIS ISSUE



OUR COVER
Time runs out for VAMPIRELLA as she is
trapped by desperate criminals. She has no
blood serum to quench her deadly thirst! And
she is tormented by a newer and greater
threat...drugs! "Into the Inferno," page 6.

Editor & Publisher JAMES WARREN

Managing Editor W.B. DuBAY

Production W.R. MOHALLEY

Cover ENRICH

Marketing Director FLO STEINBERG

Artists
This Issue
AURALEON
JOSE GONZALEZ
ESTEBAN MAROTO
FELIX MAS
RAMON TORRENTS

Writers
This Issue
BILL DuBAY
DOUG MOENCH
ROBERT ROSEN
STEVE SKEATES

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CONTENTS ISSUE NO. 24 1973

"Here I am, the one million, nine hundred and ninety-ninth victim of Vampi fever!" writes Bernard Hayes of Brooklyn, N.Y. "Vampi has obsessed me ever since I bought my first issue!"

imals, VAMPIRELLA and Pendragon find themselves at the mercy of vicious criminals in New Orleans bayou country. Ghosts from the past return to haunt a tortured Pendragon.

MIDDLE AM A world destroys itself, and begins the long process of rebuilding. But the seeds of destruction and prejudice are already sewn. Hate, cultured by ignorance divides the earth. And the old kill the young!

HOMO SUPERIOR A mysterious project headed by the government turns into a mind-bending nightmare. An immortal is unmasked, and a horror from the past is brought to life to threaten the modern world!

THE CHOICE As I stand here in this inferno, the flames leaping at me, tearing at my werewolf flesh, I have but one decision to make. Should I save myself and slay the vampire who put me here? Or, am I worth saving?

CHANGES He was expecting his wife to meet him at the door with a cocktail, to kiss him lightly, and take his coat! But his wife wasn't at the door! She was lying in a pool of blood with a knife embedded deep in her head!

VAMPI'S VAULT A creepy writer with an eerie background tells of his bizarre experiences while writing scripts for VAMPIRELLA! Gerry Boudreau reveals all! And if that's not funny enough for you, there's fanzine reviews!



his letter refers to the letter from Debbie and Kathy in issue #20 of VAMPIRELLA, wherein they said that a cannibalistic solution was the most inviting way to resolve the male/female conflict and Vampi replied, "I prefer cleavage to cleavers." I can only say this: I think they are both too extreme.

I can't understand why people can't be accepted individually! If a woman doesn't want to serve man as his comforter and companion, she shouldn't be condemned; and if a woman wants to serve a man, she should have that choice—or anything in-be-tween. People should be able to accept that certain individuals of each sex can share interests or abilities without being labelled abnormal. They shouldn't be subjected to pressure to change their in-terests. We must learn to accept each individual on his/ her merit, not sex.

ANNA TYME Washington State

"Vampirella, you are doubly oppressed!"

I too would also like to add my praise to the Gonzalez-Goodwin collaborations that make up Vampirella and company. Gonzalez's rendition of the serial is the most graphically exciting thing to come along in many a year. I am particularly impressed by his costuming of the strip's characters. The clothes on each character vary, some slightly, so there is individuality, like each one's personality. Vampirella's high, stiff collar, though a basic part of her outfit, also reflects her alien mood while the same collar paints a totally different pic-ture on Conrad Van Helsing's raincoat or, say, Pendragon's cloak. I notice now that the Van Helsings are wearing pullover shirts, another clever costume idea that emphasizes the father-son roles. I do. however, miss seeing Conrad's checkered coat blowing in the

Archie Goodwin's motivation behind the beloved Drakonian, her friends, and her enemies is outstanding when you consider the fact that so much is told with so few words. Instead of a lengthy balloon, we are treated to a smile, a frown, a tear. Great! I dearly love Pendragon, and let's hope he's featured in more future issues.

RON SAPP Dover, Delaware Only recently I began reading VAMPIRELLA, and I enjoy it very much. I am a vampire fan and so study the old legends and myths. Until your magazine, most of the things I had read about vampires were trash. I congratulate you on your excellent vampire fiction.

I've seen all the VAMPIREL-LA covers (I have a friend who collects them), and I find Enrich's cover on issue #21 worth framing. You should turn it into a poster. I also liked the ending of "Slitherers of the Sand." I've read Bram Stoker's **Dracula** and was quite happy to see the Count return to his normally evil self. But now I must ask you, Vampi, is this the end of the Prince of Darkness in your magazine? I hope not. May blood be bountiful for your thirst.

DOROTHY SCHORSTEIN (no address listed)
Dracula will rise again,
Dorothy, but in a book bigger and more beautiful than anything you have ever seen in my little mag. Watch for it!

VAMPIRELLA #21 is the first issue I've read—and I guess I fell in love with Vampirella. I'm moonstruck! But then, I'm in love with all monsters. I have models of the Creature, Frankenstein, the Mummy, Godzilla, the Phantom, the Hunchback of Notre Dame, King Kong, Dracula, the Wolf Man, Dr. Jekyll, and Mr. Hyde. Also, I collect dinosaurs from prehistoric scenes. I'll certainly want to add Vampirella to my collection. Keep up the good work!

DENNIE SPENCE Kinston, North Carolina

"The Vampiress Stalks the Castle" was fantastic! More art by Felix Mas, please. And let's have more vampire stories! The cover of VAMPIRELLA #21 was great, and so was "Slitherers of the Sand." "Paranoia," however, was dumb, but "Short Shocker" made up for it.

You have a real cool magazine, Vampi!

MIKE THELEN Wauwatosa, Wisconsin

VAMPIRELLA #20 was a disappointment. What's happening? You're going downhill. The only redeeming features in the whole issue were the great cover and Vampi's newfound love with Dracula! Bring back artwork by Billy Graham and Frank Brunner to boost the quality of your magazine.

RITA KOENIGSBERG Salem, Connecticut In a past mag, there was an article about the upcoming movie of Vampirella. My belief is that I would like to see Vampirella in a movie, but under different circumstances. I don't recommend Raquel Welch or Paula Prentiss for the part of Vampi. Why? Because they're not the type of actress who could play the part in a horror film. They're just too feminine. Vampirella should be played by a beauty who can give an unnatural, unearthly feel to the role. I suggest you take a look at Ingrid Pitt. She would make a perfect Vampi. So give her a chance, and I think you'll like her. Her latest film was "Countess Dracula," in which she played the countess herself. The film was like something out of VAMPIRELLA or an E.C. comic.

GARY SEILER Ontario, Canada The countess was a blonde, Gary, a BLONDE!

I feel it's about time to hold a Vampirella look-alike contest. It might stimulate circulation and would be a great lift to all us lovesick guys just knowing someone as beautiful as Vampi does exist.

I really dug ish #20 with Count Dracula and Vampi. Tis a pity the stories are only black and white. Keep up the great morale builder as us sicky-type dudes need all the support we can get.

WALT DANIELS U.S. Naval Hospital, Naples

This is my first time writing to you, Vampi, but I assure you you'll hear from me more often. Issue #21 was a complete knockout. The stories I loved the most were Maroto's "Tomb of the Gods/Legend" and "Slitherers of the Sand." So, let's have some more of Maroto and Gonzalez, okay?

JOSEPH A. JONES II
New York, New York

Okay, but only if you say blease."

I think your magazine is really great, Vampi! Creepy and Eerie are so far behind, I've forgotten about them. The current Vampirella stories are wonderful, and the back-up stories are great (except for "Tomb of the Gods.") Keep up the good work! Is there any chance of VAMPIRELLA becoming monthly? As much as you need your vial of blood, I need your magazine!

JOE MAGGIO, JR. Brooklyn, New York



"VAMPIRELLA obsessed me!"

I have bought two issues of VAMPIRELLA, and I only can say that the stories are fantastic! I'm a fan of comic art (U.S. artists and Argentine artists, of course), so I was very lucky to meet with the work of Neal Adams, my favorite, and Jose Gonzalez, who may be the perfect artist for Vampirella. I was also glad to find the work of Esteban Maroto, who I know from his work in Spain, "5X Infinito."

Of course, I had some troubles with the language since I only know English that I study in school, but finally I could understand all the stories. As I am now a buyer of Vampi's mags, I want to ask you something—please, in one future mag, give us a giant poster of Vampirella drawn and signed by Jose Gonzalez. Like someone said, "That's all, folks"

ENRIQUE VIRDO Cordoba, Republica Argentina

Vampi, doll, I don't know if anyone has ever told you this before, but you are doubly oppressed—both as a woman and as a vampire! As a vampire, you are ashamed of what you are. You have allowed human prejudice to deny your basic needs and pleasures. As a woman, you let yourself be directed and manipulated by the will of men. Why do you let yourself in for all the hurt that the likes of Dracula and Adam Van Helsing bring you? Liberate yourself!

JON FORBES Lansing, Michigan

Am I all that oppressed, or am I just bound by circumstances I can't control? And even if I am shackled and oppressed, do I have the right to liberate my Drakulonian nature on earth? Readers, this is a question for YOU!

Well, here I am—the onemillion, nine-hundred and ninety-ninth victim of Vampi fever. Vampi has obsessed me, ever since I bought my first issue. I've been hooked ever since. Vampirella is a real person. She has that exquisite charm that separates her from those other humdrum heroines.

The cover of VAMPIRELLA #20 was pretty good, but it did an inefficient job of hinting what the real story was like. "Vengeance, Brother, Vengeance!" was an exciting sword and sorcery tale. I am quite fond of fantasies drawn in this theme. Also, why not lengthen the Vampirella stories to about 25 pages and

ries to about 25 pages an issue?

BERNARD HAYNES

Brooklyn, New York

#21 was really a fine issue. gang, really fine! I happen to prefer the irony of fantastic occurrences in realistic set-tings, so the format of a VAM-PIRELLA mag is more to my liking than the generally more science fiction/sword and sorcery stories of CREEPY and EERIE. "Slitherers of the Sand" was quite well done, and it's a credit to the continuing Vampi saga. It was heartbreaking to see Vampi-rella give up Dracula; and I, for one, think the two of them could have had a lot more going between them than mere "homesickness" or loneliness. Vampi has great courage in her conviction to renounce the bloodlust within her, so I suppose hanging around with Drac would not have strengthened her resolve any, would

While the genre of "Tomb of the Gods/Legend" is not exactly my favorite, I must say that the story itself is truly a good one. My only criticism is that two such similar endings, renunciation of true love, in a row (Vampi and Drac and Farla and Atlik) tended to become a little mushy. The art is superb, as is all of Maroto's work, with a grace and clarity that is unmatched by any commercial artist in the comic mags.

mags.
"Paranoia" is one of those stories that can give the reader a mental imbalance of the same name. The disorientation in time and space is a common theme these days (with Slaughterhouse Five being the most popular example) but it must strike a responsive chord because it never fails to capture a reader's attention. Nice art by Luis Garcia never hurts anything either.

The trippiest story this issue, though, was "The Vampiress Stalks the Castle This Night." Two very young lovers up against the world need to meet with a vampiress like they need a hole in the head, but yet the life-or-death quality of their experience will serve to put their more real problems into some sort of perspective. Maybe things will seem less desperate now. "Delicate" is the word for art by Felix Mas. And I really love the large, liquid eyes he gives his women. See you around.

JEN ROBINSON San Francisco, California

I must congratulate you on your magazine, Vampi. Creepy and Eerie are marvelous, but you are just wonderful.

LLOYD ROSE Charlotte, N.C.



What's happening, Vampirella? I am a big fan of yours, and I really love to read about you. I think you are a beautiful woman—and I do mean wom-an. As an artist myself, I like good art work so I wish brother Frank Frazetta would do some more of his great work for you. I drew you black, Vampirella, because I see you as many beautiful colors, all of which make you stand alone on top of everyone else. I am black, and I'm proud to be reading a great magazine with a sexy-looking lady like you. There's a soul song that says "What you see is what you get," and when I read you, Vampirella, I get plenty. Can you dig it?

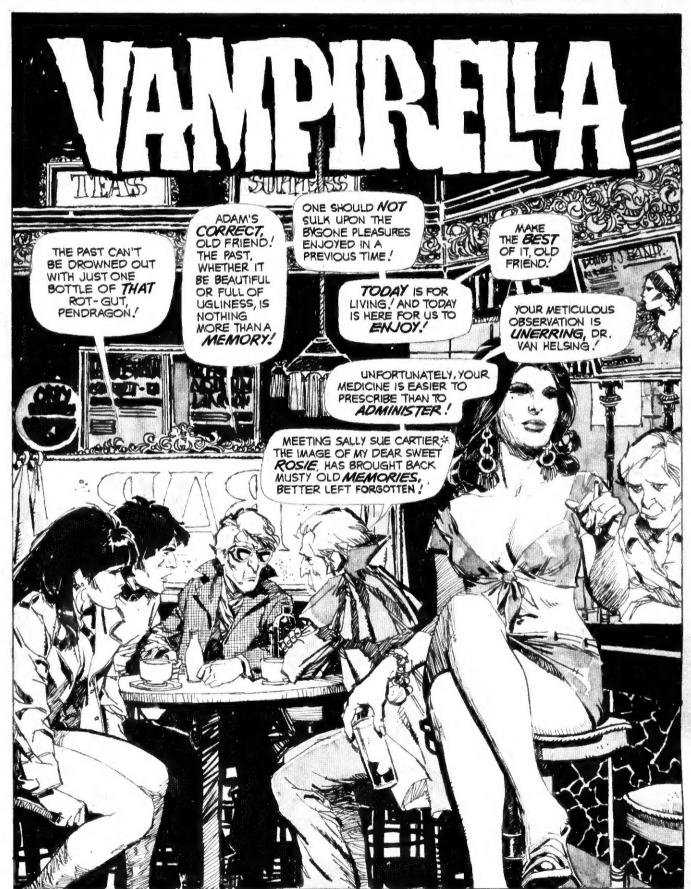
MARV Los Angeles, California

In VAMPIRELLA #16 a demented fool, who left only his initials, L.F., wrote in and insulted the good name of Vampirella. I was disgusted with what he had to say, and if I could have had my way, I'd have strung him up and left him to rot. Since then, I have noticed that there have been more and more complaints and insults, most of them about VAMPIRELLA having too many love stories. In a way, I agree with them, but you do make up for them with excellent horror stories. I want to compliment you on the story "Slitherers of the Sand" in VAMPIRELLA #21. In my view, it was the best of the Vampi saga.

> BRUCE BARR Lawrence, Kansas



SOMETIMES THE DARKNESS BROUGHT ON BY **NIGHT** DOES STRANGE THINGS TO THE HUMAN MIND! LIKE THE WARMTH SNUFFED OUT BY A FADING SUN, THE NIGHT BRINGS ON THE COLD! AND WITH THE COLD COMES **LONLINESS...** AND THE REALIZATION OF A WARMTH THAT WAS ONCE THERE, BUT IS NOW GONE! TONIGHT IS JUST SUCH A NIGHT IN NEW ORLEANS... COLD AND LONELY FOR AN AGED STAGE MAGICIAN NAMED **PENDRAGON**, EVEN THOUGH HE SHARES THE NIGHT WITH GOOD FRIENDS AND A BEAUTE OUS VAMPIRESS FROM THE STARS...













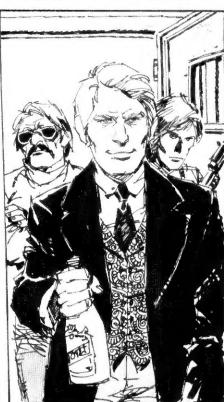




























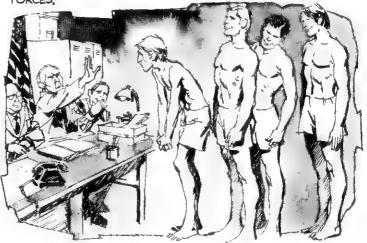
"IT WAS DURING THE WAR! ROSIE, MY WIFE AND I WERE SCRIMPING ALONG ON THE MEAGER SALARY OF A STAGE MAGICIAN, TRYING TO FIND A BIT OF COMFORT FOR OURSELVES AND OUR BABY, SARA!"



"MY BEAUTIFUL SARA WAS ONLY THREE YEARS OLD BACK THEN...BACK WHEN HITLER'S ARMIES WERE TEARING ACROSS WESTERN EUROPE, YET ALREADY SHE WAS AS DELICATE AND LOVELY AS HER MOTHER,



"WHILE MOST OF AMERICA'S MALE POPULATION READIED FOR **BATTLE** I WAS FOUND PHYSICALLY **UNFIT** FOR THE ARMED FORCES."



"BUT LIKE MOST YOUNG MEN BACK THEN, I WAS PATRIOTIC ENOUGH TO WANT TO SERVE MY COUNTRY IN ANY CAPACITY I COULD."



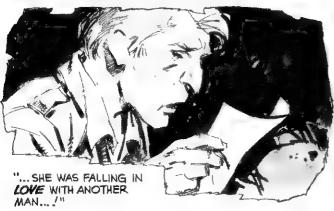
"I SIGNED WITH THE FIRST USO TROUPE HEADING ACROSS THE ATLANTIC.' IF I COULDN'T FIGHT, I COULD AT LEAST DO WHAT I WAS BEST AT... ENTERTAINING.' EVEN BATTLE WEARY SOLDIERS NEEDED THE KIND OF LAUGH A PARLOR-MAGICIAN COULD AFFORD.'"



"I SENT HOME WHAT LITTLE I MADE WHILE ON TOUR! AND ROSIE WROTE, TELLING ME OF THE JOB SHE WAS ABLE TO GET IN AN **ELECTRONICS** PLANT!"



"FROM HER LETTERS, I COULD TELL THAT ROSIE WAS INFATUATED WITH THE YOUNG ELECTRONICS DYNAMO. IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN OBVIOUS TO ME THEN... BUT MY NAIVE AND HOMESICK MIND JUST DIDN'T WANT TO BELIEVE WHAT WAS HAPPENING TO MY ROSIE BACK HOME..."



"HOW CAN YOU MAKE THE WOMAN YOU LOVE RETURN YOUR LOVE? I KNEW IT WAS HOPELESS! I CONSENTED TO THE DIVORCE BECAUSE I LOVED ROSIE... AND WANTED HER TO BE HAPPY! I KNEW OUR LIFE TOGETHER WAS OVER... AND I FELT LIKE HALF A MAN FOR NOT PUTTING UP A FIGHT TO KEEP THE WOMAN I LOVED!"



"BUT WHAT KIND OF LIFE COULD A TWO-BIT STAGE MAGICIAN GIVE TO A BEAUTIFUL GIRL LIKE ROSIE?!"



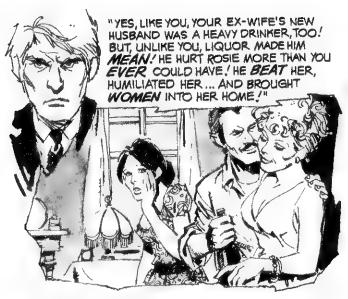
"THEN ROSIE WROTE ME ASKING FOR THE **DIVORCE!**" BUT BEFORE HER LETTER REACHED ME. I RECEIVED THE DIVORCE PAPERS..."



"...THAT'S WHEN MY LIFE BEGAN TO CHANGE ... !"







"ROSIE MUST HAVE FELT HELPLESS, WATCHING HER LITTLE GIRL FLAIL ABOUT BEFORE THE MAN'S BLOWS... HEARING HER SCREAMS AND KNOWING THAT SHE COULD DO NOTHING..."



"SOMETHING MUST HAVE SNAPPED IN ROSIE'S MIND! SHE GRABBED A KNIFE AND CAME AT HER DRUNKEN HUSBAND!"

"ROSIE LAY ON THE SIDEWALK, MOANING IN PAIN, SPITTING BLOOD FROM INSIDES THAT WERE PULPY MUSH." LITTLE SARA WAS BESIDE HER, SOBBING HYSTERICALLY WHEN THE AMBULANCE ROARED UP."



"AND IF THAT WASN'T ENOUGH, UNTIL ONE DAY HE WENT. TOO FAR! COMING HOME DRUNK, HE LASHED INTO SARA... MERCILESSLY!"



"HE WHIRLED IN TIME TO WARD OFF THE ATTACK... AND LAND A BLOW WHICH SENT ROSIE BACK..."



"... CRASHING THROUGH THE WINDOW OF THEIR TWO-STORY APARTMENT..."



"WHEN THE POLICE CAME, THEY FOUND A DRUNKEN DAYID POUNDS, PASSED OUT IN HIS BEDROOM! AND WHEN THEY TOOK HIM AWAY, I WATCHED A VERY LOST AND HELPLESS LITTLE GIRL SHED ENRAGED TEARS OF HATE!"





"WHEN POUNDS TRIED TO GET SARA BACK, MY DADDY WASN'T ABOUT TO GIVE HER UP! HE KNEW WHAT KIND OF TROUBLE THAT DRUNK WOULD GIVE SARA."



"SO MY DADDY, HE PUT UP A FIGHT, AND POUNDS LEFT EMPTY-HANDED, SWEARING HE'D HAVE THE LAW ON US!"



"HE PROBABLY WOULD HAVE, TOO... IF MY DADDY HADN'T MADE SURE POUNDS HAD A LITTLE "ACCIDENT."



"FUNNY THING, THAT! NO ONE EVER EVEN MISSED POUNDS! AND WE KEPT SARA ALL THESE YEARS... UNTIL I TOOK HER AS MY WIFE!"















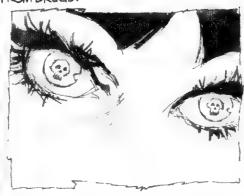


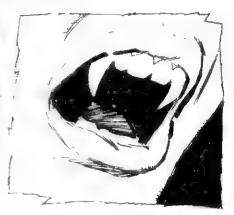




IN THE FRACTION OF A SECOND THAT IT TAKES TWO EYES TO MEET, A GLINT OF RECOGNITION PASSES THROUGH VAMPIRELLA! ...RECOGNITION THAT IS QUICKLY LOST...REPLACED BY THE INSANELY GLAZED STARE OF ONE HIGH ON FROM DRUGS! VAMPIRE FANGS BARE, AND A SHRILL CRY ERUPTS FROM ATHROAT TOO LONG DRY! VAMPIRELLA THIRSTS...



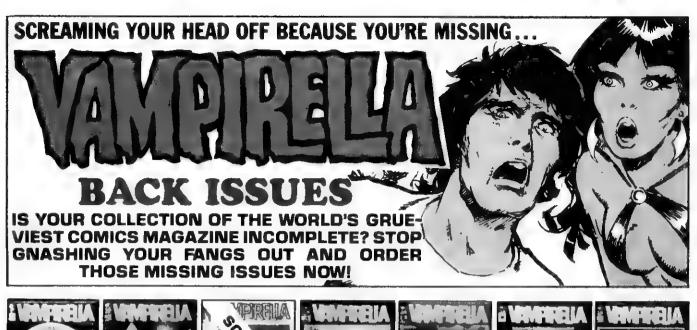






DRIVEN INSANE, HIGH ON FROM THE HARSH DRUG WITHIN HER SYSTEM, VAMPIRELLA TURNS ON HER FRIEND TO FEED! HER MIND NOT SEEING REALITY, BUT TORMENTED VISIONS OF HER OWN PRIVATE HELL! VAMPIRELLA IS NOT YET AWARE THAT BLOOD IS NOT THE ONLY THING SHE NOW NEEDS TO SURVIVE! FOR HER BODY CRIES OUT FOR A NEW CRAVING... THE CRAVING FOR EVEN MORE OF THIS STRANGE SUBSTANCE EARTH PEOPLE CALLS DRUGS! FOR VAMPIRELLA, THIS IS ONLY THE FIRST STEP...



















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THOSE IN THE MONASTERY
BELIEVE THAT CONSTANT
BREATHING OF THE FUMES
CAN GREATLY SHORTEN
ONE'S LIFE-SPAN!

BUT THE PEOPLE OF
THESE VILLAGES REFUSE
TO REPLACE THEIR
TRADITIONAL HEATING
MATERIAL, WHICH GIVES
OFF THIS SMOKE...
REFUSE TO REPLACE IT
WITH A MATERIAL WHICH
WILL MOT SHORTEN
THEIR LIVES I...THEY
BELIEVE THE MONKS
LIE!





MY OPPONENTS ARE SLOW... EXTREMELY **SLOW!** AND I AM A QUICK SWORDSMAN!

I COULD EASILY DEFEAT THEM... IF I WERE NOT SO WEAK!

















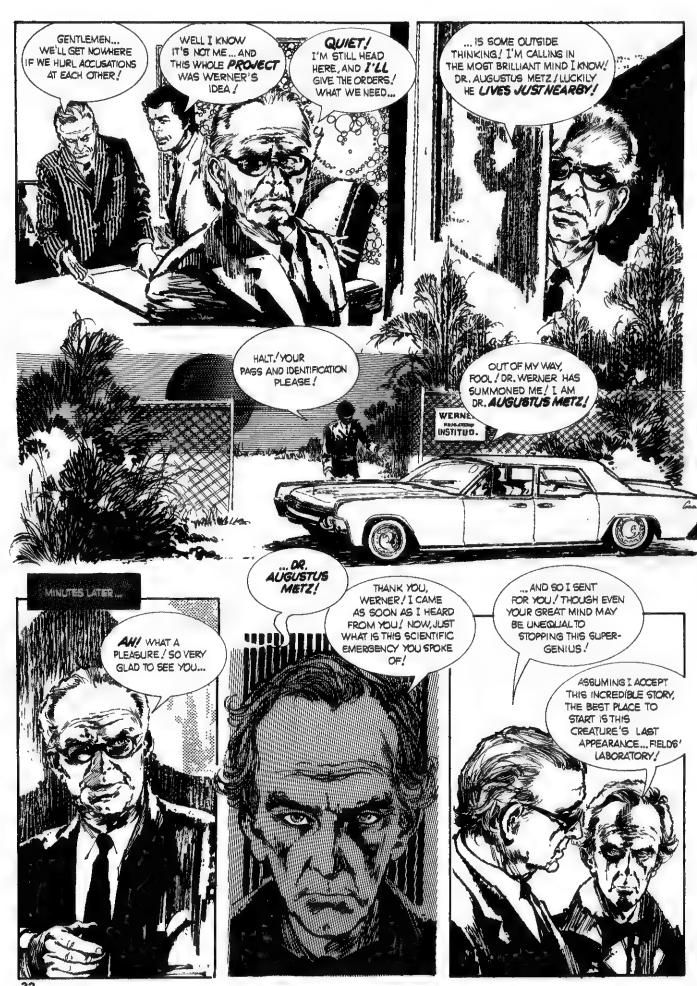














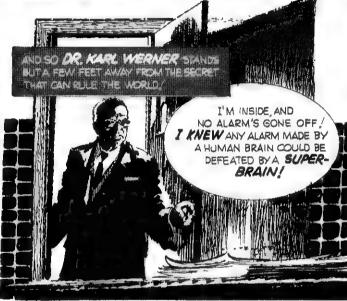






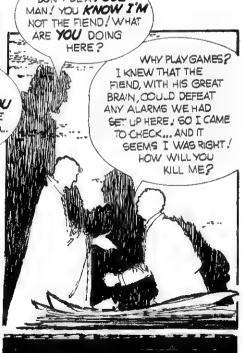






DON'T BE A FOOL











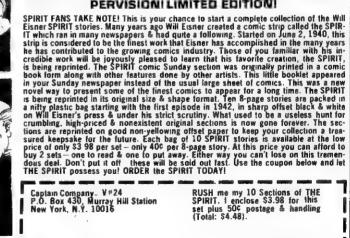


O COMIC BOOK SECT AS THEY ORIGINALLY APPEAU

REPRINTED IN BLACK & WHITE FOR PERMANENT COLLECTING UNDER WILL EISNER'S PERSONAL SU-PERVISIONI LIMITED EDITION!













...WE WERE BOTH UNDER A FURTIVE SCRUTINY, WHICH WOULD EVENTUALLY CONSTITUTE TRAGEDY TO US ALL ... BUT TRAGEDIES OF SOMEWHAT DIFFERING MANIFESTATIONS...



THIS LITTLE
TRAUMA TALE,
RABID READERS,
BEGINS WITH A
WOMAN WATCHING
THE WOLFMAN
WATCH A WOMAN...
AND IT ENDS
WITH...

THE CHOICE



I PREFER TO STRIKE UNEXPECTEDLY, LIKE THE BEAST I SOMETIMES AM. BUT I DID NOT KNOW IF MY DISCOVERER POSSESSED A PISTOL, OR IF THE PISTOL POSSESSED LETHAL BULLETS OF HOLY SILVER... SO I FLED, THRASHING THROUGH THE TANGLED FOLLAGE...



THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THE WOMAN AND I MELTED LIKE SNOW IN SPRING AS I ROAMED UNSHACKLED...THROUGH THE SHADOW-CLENCHED FOREST, MY SECOND BUT MOST BELOVED HOME...



I FEASTED, NEVER SATIATED, UNTIL NIGHT RELINQUISHED ITS DARK SWAY TO BLOSSOMING DAY...







DURING THE NEXT WEEK, WE SPOKE LITTLE, AND NEVER OF THE ONE MATTER WHOSE CONSEQUENCES AFFECTED US THE MOST! UNTIL...



THREE MORE WEEKS AND A PREGNANT MOON LEERED DOWN UPON THE HIGHEST TOWER OF MY CASTLE! THE BEAST WITHIN ME WAS READY TO BE BORN AGAIN...



WHAT NEED OF FREEDOM WOULD I HAVE ONCE THE FULL MOON HAD GONE? I NEEDED FREEDOM NOW--I NEEDED RELEASE, FREEDOM TO HUNT-- NOT THE SCRAWNY HARE DELIVERED ON A PLATTER, WHICH MY GROWL SUCCEEDED IN BRINGING FROM HER...



BUT MY HUNGER WAS **UNENDING...** I LUSTED FOR THE **TASTE** OF HOT THICK **BLOOD** AND THE STRONG FEEL OF MY **FAMSS** RIPPING THROUGH STILL-LIVING FLESH!

I KNEW OF HER POORLY CONCEALED REVULSION AS I DEVOURED THE HARE WHICH SHE PROVIDED TO STAVE OFF MY HUNGER AND APPEASE THE BESTIAL TRAITS WITHIN ME... BUT WHAT COULD I DO FOR HER?



I HATED HER THEN ... I WANTED TO RIP OUT HER THROAT FOR IMPRISONING ME IN SUCH FOUL CONFINEMENT, BUT I ALSO KNEW WHAT IT WAS FOR HER TO MAINTAIN HER LONELY VIGIL. TO ENDURE THE SIGHT OF HER HUSBAND HOWLING TO A SILVER MOON ...

DAWN OF THE SECOND DAY BROUGHT THE END OF THE MOON'S CONTROL... AND FROM MY IMPRISONMENT. I LOVED LISSA THEN, AS FEW MEN OR BEASTS HAVE LOVED ANOTHER. SHE HAD ALLIED HERSELF WITH THE EVIL FOR OUT TWO UNSPEAKABLE NIGHTS OF TERROR AND TORMENT.



HER PORTION OF OUR FORMER INTIMACY, LEAVING ME TO FEND FOR MYSELF IN THE VACUUM OF DESPAIR ...

IT WAS ON A SLEEPLESS NIGHT THAT I FIRST SAW KARL AND LISSA TOGETHER. THERE WAS NOTHING INHERENTLY IRREGULAR IN THAT LISSA WAS WALKING WITH A SERVANT, BUT HER RECENT AVOIDANCE OF ME CAST A SINISTER SHADOW OVER THE INCIDENT ...



EVERYTHING



WITH THE **DISINTEGRATION** OF OUR BONDS, I **DREADED**THE NEXT FULL MOON. **WOULD** LISSA AGAIN SEE ME THROUGH
IT?...OR HAD THE FIRST EXPERIENCE CAUSED HER TO LOSE ANY
COMPASSION FOR ME?



BUT AT LAST THE MOON WAXED TO FULLNESS, AND LISSA SILENTLY LED ME UP THE SPIRAL STAIRWELL...



LISSA SEEMED TO INTENTIONALLY SEEK OUT KARL'S COMPANY, I SEETHED WITH CONTAINED RAGE...IMAGINED THAT THE TALL, THIN SERVANT HELD SOME SORT OF FASCINATION FOR MY FAIR LISSA...



AS SHE CLANKED THE CELL DOOR SHUT WITH A DEATH RATTLE, I FINALLY REALIZED WHAT THE WHOLE GHASTLY AFFAIR HAD DONE TO HER. SHE APPEARED ON THE VERGE OF COLLAPSE. SHE HADN'T BEEN EATING, AND WAS EMACIATED WITH A DREADFUL PALLOR. HER EYES, UNFOCUSED, SHE MOVED AS ONE IN ATRANCE... BUT ALL SUCH OBSERVATIONS VANISHED AS I BEGAN TO EXPERIENCE...





SAVAGELY, I HURLED MY HUGE FORM AGAINST THE BATTERED, BRUISED, BLEEDING, I REPEATEDLY LASHED OUT AGAINST MY HATED PRISON...



UNTIL, INEVITABLY ...

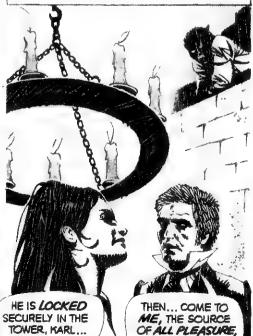
QUICKLY I DESCENDED THE DANK STAIRWELL WITH **SWIFT** LUPINE AGILITY ...

... UNTIL I REACHED THE SECOND LEVEL OF THE CASTLE. I ADVANCED TO THE POLISHED BALCONY AND PEERED DOWN UPON A SCENE OF SUCH SHOCK ASTO STAGGER EVEN THE HEART WITHIN MY ANIMAL BREAST...

THEIR SLOW, LIQUID EMBRACE WAS THE CATALYST OF MY FURY... THEY WOULD DIE, BOTH OF THEM-BUT FIRST THE GIRL ...

Carlotte Com





LISSA...

BUT THEN KARL LIFTED HIS TREACHEROUS
HEAD...TO REVEAL THE CRIMSONSMEARED FANGS OF A VAMPIRE.
AT LAST I UNDERSTOOD, LISSA'S
HYPNOTIC FASCINATION WITH THE
SERVANT--AS WELL AS HER DRASTIC LOSS
OF WEIGHT AND HER PALED COMPLEXION...



SHE HAD BEEN GRADUALLY CONTROLED BY THE VAMPIRE'S POWER, SLOWLY ORAINED OF HER LIFE'S ESSENCE--FILLED WITH VILE EVIL... AGAINST HER WILL.



LISSA HAD EXCUSED -- DISMISSED -THE CANCEROUS EVIL EXISTING
WITHIN ME... COULD I DO LESS FOR
MER? SHOULD I NOT LOVE HER IN
SPITE OF THE FACT THAT SHE WOULD
SOON BECOME ONE OF THE WALKING



AND NEITHER COULD I KILL HER NEW LOVER--WHATEVER THE ARCANE REASONS RESPONSIBLE FOR HER LOVING HIM. TO DO SO WOULD BE TO DENY HER THE SAME HAPPINESS SHE HAD PROVIDED ME...



KARL LEFT, AND THROUGH A MIST OF ANGUISH I STARED DOWN UPON MY ENTRANCED WIFE. WOULD IT NOT HAVE BEEN BETTER FOR ME, FOR HER, FOR SLAUGHTERED INNOCENTS, HAD SHE PLUNGED A SILVER BULLET INTO MY MATTED BREAST? SHOULD I NOT END HER DEPRAYED EXISTENCE BEFORE IT CORRUPTED HER INNOCENT SOUL...?



MY DECISION LAUNCHED ME FROM THE BALCONY ACROSS DIZZYING HEIGHTS...



I CURSED THOSE HORRIBLY GIGGLING FATES AS I LANDED UPON THE ORNATE CHANDELIER. I SHOULD NEVER HAVE TAKEN LISSA HUNTING WITH ME ON THAT FATEFUL DAY TWO MONTHS EARLIER...



NOR HAD MY INTERVENTION WHEN THE WOLF CHARGED HER BEEN OF ANY AVAIL...



TAKING THE WOLF'S BITE IN HER PLACE HAD BEEN FUTILE, I NOW KNEW. LISSA WAS **DESTINED** TO BE FILLED WITH EVIL-ONE WAY OR THE OTHER...

THE IMPACT WAS **DULLED** WITH THE CRUSHING OF HER BODY... AND THEOIL FROM THE CHANDELIER **IGNITED** VIOLENTLY, I HOPED THAT MY DECISION HAD BEEN THE MERCIFUL ONE.

AND NOWANOTHER DECISION HAD TO BE MADE. SHOULD I SEEK OUT THE VAMPIRE KARL AND SLAY HIM, AND THEREFORE SUFFER MYSELF AS A BEAST OF PREYPOR SHOULD I REMAIN HERE, WITH LISSA AND PERISH IN THE FLAMING PYRE AND ACHIEVE MY OWN PEACE... LEAVING AN INNOCENT WORLD TO BATTLE KARL--?



VHOOOOMPHH!





IT WOULD NOT BE AN EASY CHOICE...

DECISIONS, DECISIONS! TO BE OR NOT TO BLEED, THAT IS THE DIGESTION! DAMIEN'S CHOICE WAS A DILLY, ALL RIGHT... BUT YOU WON'T FIND OUT WHAT IT WAS FROM ME, AND KARL ISN'T THE TYPE TO KISS AND TELL EITHER, FEAR FIENDS!





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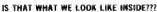
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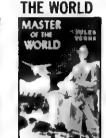


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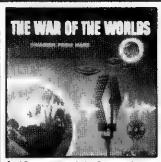
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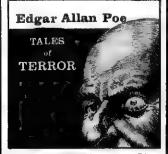
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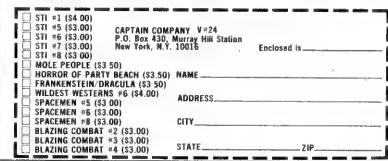
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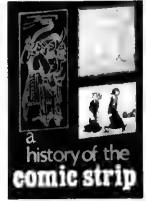
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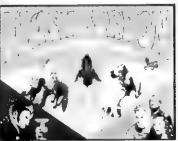
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In 1875 Protessor Darwin wrote,
"This plant, commonly called Venus Fly Trap,
from the rapidity and force of
its movements, is
one of the most
wonderful in the
world...!t
is surprising how a slightly
damp bit of meat... will produce these... effects. It seems
hardly possible, and yet it
is certainly a fact." In 1875 Protes-





Unwary insect touches sensitive hairs, causing trap to shut Plant then dissolves & digests insect. Trap will bite at (but will NOT bite off) more than it can chew such as a finger or a pencil. In a few days, after nating an insect. It will reonen

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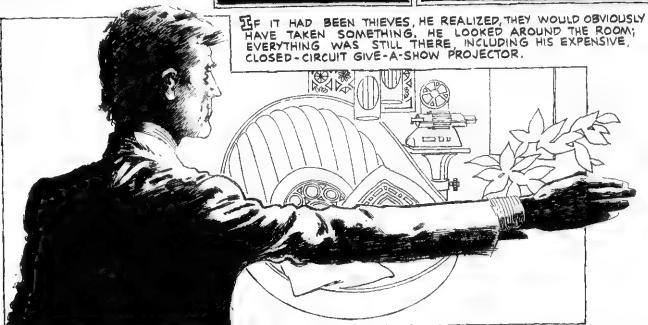


WHO" TED ASKED HIMSELF OUT LOUD, A BIT SHAKEN, AS HE STEPPED OVER HIS WIFE, WALKED TO THE LIQUOR CABINET, AND MIXED HIS OWN COCKTAIL.



HE THREW DOWN THE COCKTAIL IN ONE GULP.





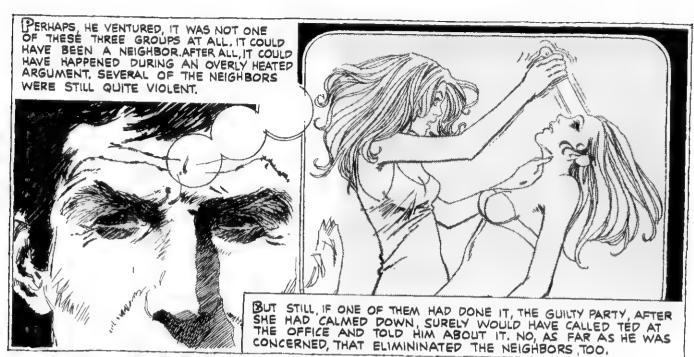
SEF IT HAD BEEN VANDALS, THEY WOULD HAVE SMASHED, BROKEN AND DESTROYED EVERYTHING IN THE HOUSE, BUT EVERYTHING WAS INTACT, EXCEPT, OF COURSE, HIS WIFE. EVEN THE RUG HADN'T BEEN RUINED; THE BLOOD WOULD WASH OUT EASILY ENOUGH.



HE HAD ELIMINATED THIEVES AND VANDALS.

THAT LEFT ONLY SCOUNDRELS, BUT EVEN
THAT DIDN'T MAKE MUCH SENSE, WHY
WOULD SCOUNDRELS BURY A MEAT
CLEAVER IN HIS WIFE'S SKULL? THERE
WAS NO INHERENT DRAMA IN THE ACT.
NO AUDIENCE TO PLAY TO.



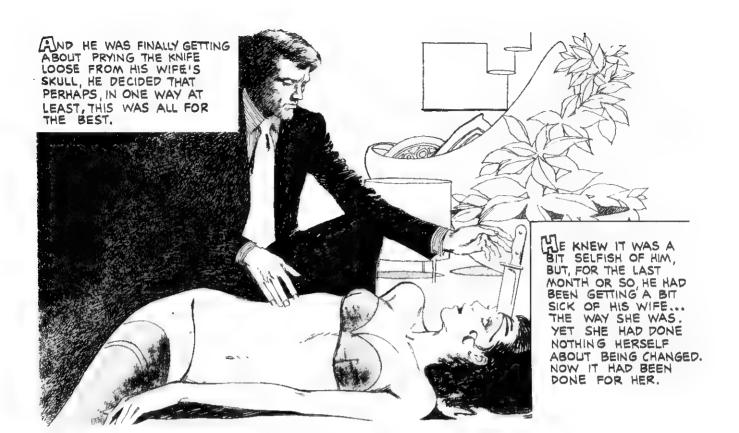




THE SOMEWHAT DREADED THE BLOODY JOB THAT LAY AHEAD, FOLLOWED BY THE LONG DRIVE AND THE UNENDING STRING OF QUESTIONS AND FORMS HE'D HAVE TO FILL OUT, BUT IT HAD TO BE DONE.













ME REALIZED, BEING PERFECTLY HONEST WITH HIMSELF, THAT HE WOULD BE GLAD TO HAVE DEBRA OUT OF HIS HAIR FOR A WHILE; FOR ONE THING, HER HIGH-PITCHED VOICE WAS MAKING HIS HEAD-

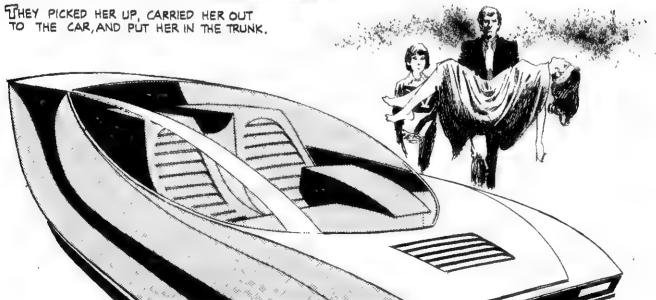






NEVER MIND THAT!
AND DON'T ASK ME WHO
DID IT! JUST GIVE
ME A HAND!

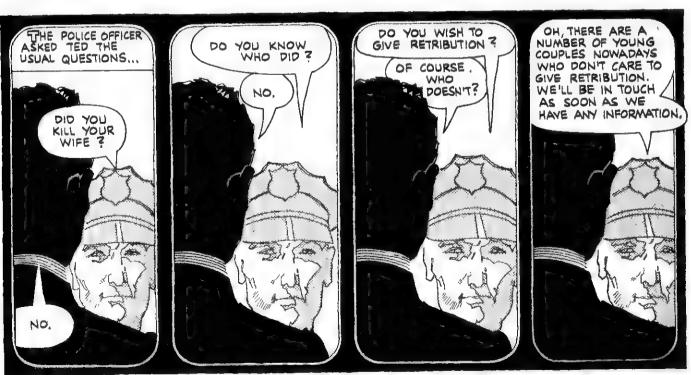






THE FORMS
ALONG WITH THE
BRAIN- WAVE
RECORDS TO THE
HEAD SURGEON,
WHO READ THEM
OVER, THEN PASSED THEM ON TO
THE POLICE
OFFICER ON DUTY
THERE AT THE
COMPLEX,







LE WOULD SURELY ALSO
HAVE ARRIVED HOME WITHOUT A HEADACHE IF A YOUNG
SCOUNDREL HADN'T THROWN
A ROCK AT HIS HEAD AS.
HE WAS PASSING THROUGH
THEIR PART OF TOWN.





WIS WIFE MET HIM AT THE DOOR WITH A COCKTAIL KISSED HIM LIGHTLY ON THE CHEEK AND TOOK HIS BRIEF CASE AND HIS COAT.

MER BREASTS WERE LARGER
NOW; HE LIKED THAT, HE
LIKED HER BLONDE HAIR, TOO.
HER RATHER SQUEAKY VOICE
WAS THE ONLY THING HE HADN'T
COUNTED ON, HADN'T ASKED FOR;
IT WAS AN ERROR, BUT THE ONLY
ERROR, AND HE WAS THANKFUL



THE THREW HIS COCKTAIL DOWN IN ONE GULP AND HE WAS ABOUT TO ASK FOR ANOTHER, WHEN HE REMEMBERED THAT HE NOW HAD THE INFORMATION.



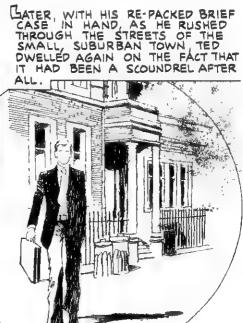
RE-PACK
MY BRIEF
CASE!
RETRIBUTION!

"RETRIBUTION" MEANT, AND IF SHE HAD KNOWN, SHE STILL WOULDN'T HAVE REALIZED WHO OR WHAT THE RETRIBUTION WAS FOR. THE MEMORIES OF THE EVENTS SURROUNDING HER DEATH HAD BEEN, FOR HER OWN SAKE, TAKEN OUT OF HER MIND.

SHE WENT ABOUT HER BRIEF- CASE- PACKING DUTIES, WHICH HAD BEEN PROGRAMMED INTO HER MIND, HAPPILY, WITHOUT ASKING QUESTIONS, TED LIKED THAT, TOO.







WHEN THE POLICE HAD TOLD HIM, HE COULDN'T BELIEVE IT; HE STILL COULD HARDLY BELIEVE IT, HE'D HAVE TO WATCH HIS STEP, OF COURSE, AS HE PASSED THROUGH THEIR PART OF TOWN, OR HE MIGHT BE PELTED TO DEATH WITH ROCKS AND STONES.



THE HASKELLS, AND KNOCKED ON THE OLD FASHIONED, WOODEN DOOR.



THE DOOR WHO







As she fell, a weird sensation, a weird sense of satisfaction, washed over him - a sense of satisfaction he had never known before. ALS



IT HAD ENACTED RETRIBUTION BEFORE, OF COURSE, BUT NEVER AGAINST A SCOUNDREL, HE GUESSED THAT THAT WAS THE DIFFERENCE. THIS WEIRD SENSE OF SATISFACTION CAME, HE WAS CERTAIN, FROM THE FACT THAT HE KNEW THAT THESE STRANGE FANATICS THE SCOUNDRELS, DID NOT BELIEVE IN REVITALIZING OPERATIONS OR IN CHANGES. CHANGES.

THIS WOMAN WITH THE DOWDY DRESS AND UNAPPEALING FIGURE WAS TRULY DEAD.





EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT

GERRY BOUDREAU

A VERY CREEPY WRITER WITH AN EERIE MIND!

It never ceases to amaze me that the smallest state in the union has spawned no less than three professional comic writers. But I humbly add my name to the tradition set by Don McGregor and Greg Potter, also native of Rhode Island.

Born in Cumberland, most of my early years were divided between listening to The Coasters, watching Roger Corman sci-fi flix, and reading comics. Things haven't changed much.

While studying journalism at the University of Rhode Island, I discovered I could get paid for doing what I enjoy most, namely writing. My first effort was a pop music magazine which I wrote, illustrated and edited myself, as well as handling distribution and advertising. It lasted four issues, a feat which I marvel at even today considering it was published on a total budget of forty dollars.

Once the zine folded, I realized I could save myself a lot of headaches by writing for other people, so I began with an article on comic collecting for the magazine section of the Providence Sunday Journal

day Journal. Shortly after, I met artist Walt Simonson and that led to my first venture into comic writing per se; a two issue, black & white, issue, black & white, comic book called The Outsiders, published by the University of Rhode Island. The mags were well received by both fans and pros, and it was Denny O'Neil who, after reading it, encouraged me to begin writing com-ics professionally. Taking him at his word I began aiming scripts at commercial markets and before long had sold scripts for Dark Shadows, Star Trek, several mystery and war titles for National, and the Warren Magazines.

Whence from here? Well, it's hard to be certain in an uncertain world, but I hope to get into film and TV writing without forsaking my first love, comics.



Gerry Boudreau's last strip, "Planet of the Werewolves," teamed him with artist Reed Crandall in EERIE #46. Needless to say, it was a hit!



ow would you like to see Dracula, the Mummy and the Wolfman starring together in a colossal all-series magazine? Kind of an off-beat idea, even for Warren Publishing? You bet! But it's exactly what we've got planned! Beginning with the new issue of EERIE magazine, (EERIE #48, on sale April 3) we unwrap the new Mummy series, and Jerome Curry, alias mild-mannered -two-thousand-year-old-Egyptian-Pharoah, takes his place next to the ever-popular Dracula.

Dracula, as regular EERIE readers know, has been serialized in EERIE for several issues now, And the king of vampires has risen to new heights under the competent artistic direction of **Tom Sutton**.

The adventures of the **Mummy** will be guided by two long-time Warren veterans. **Steve Skeates**, acclaimed as one of the finest writers in comics, will be handling the Mummy's scripting. While **Jaime Brocal** will handle

the art chores.

And then there's the new Werewolf series, right next to Dracula and the Mummy in EERIE #48. Two relatively-new-comers to the Warren titles are guiding this one. Al Milgrom, a recruit coming from National Comics' production department, is the writer of the series. And Rich Buckler, whom we've marvelously captained away from a comics' house that shall remain nameless, is the strip's artist. Al and Rich both outdid

themselves on the Werewolf's first episode.

FANZINE REVIEWS

FANZINES are amateur publications produced by comic book fans, geared to an audience with a similar interest in comics. They contain a diversity of material, from historical articles on comics of the past, to discussions of current comics and news of comics yet to come! Fanzines are available only by MAIL, direct from their publishers! We think you'll enjoy reading some of the better examples from the present fanzine market!

PHASE P.O. Box 218 Vanderveer Station Brooklyn, NY 11210 (\$3.00)

hase is a fanzine, but you'd never know it by looking at it! It's one of those new-breed fanzines that comes off looking more like Playboy Press' version of a comic book! And the lineup of talent is equally as impressive as the magazine's reproduction quality. Ken Barr should win an award for his excellent full-color wrap-around cover. Neal Adams, too, outdid himself on an 8-page story, "A View From Without." The art is Neal's usual great stuff! But his story is a tear-jerker, and worth the price of the book alone. There's also work by Morrow, De Zuniga, Jones, Kaluta, Skeates and Sutton, to cite only part of an all star talent lineup!



COMIC READER 393 East 58 Street Brooklyn, NY 11203 (35¢)

f you're a comics buff, and your allowance won't allow you to buy more than one fanzine a month, that fanzine should quite naturally be the one with the most news and info on the comics. And only one publication fills that bill: The Comic Reader! TCR is a news-zine, and probably the most accurate one around! If anything at all is to happen in the comics world, The Comic Reader is there, re-porting it first: news from all of the major comic publishers, both professional and un-derground. And TCR reporters have a way with words that makes the most bland things happening in the comics sound both interesting and exciting.

HERITAGE 2040 Wellwood Ave. Farmingdale, NY 11735 (\$5.00)

t seems awfully strange calling a pub-Lication like Heritage a fanzine! It comes in soft-book binding, and boasts the work of such talented superstars as Esteban Maroto, Reed Crandall, Wally Wood, Al Wil-liamson and Neal Adams! Heritage is a gathering place for the top talent in the comics; a place where the comics' fine art men gather to pay their respects to one who went before: Alex Raymond! The whole package is so well put together that one would expect to find it in only the finest bookstore! Unfortunately Heritage is available only by mail. The price tag is a steep \$5.00, but a bargain to Flash Gordon fans and fans of fine art!





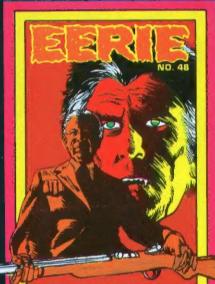


PREVIEW OUR NEXT ISSUES!



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A shotgun blast rips through the immortal body of Dracula, and the mutilated corpse of the vampire king falls into an endless pit. What is the deadly secret of the vampire killer who lurks in the dark?

THE SON OF DRACULAY

A full moon rises over the quiet English township of Dwarves Bay, and the oncesilent streets come alive with terror-filled screams!





When the earth was yet are tamed, I was the greatest of all hunters! The scent of DEATH became MY Scent and beasts crieded at my coming! Even the most proficient of all killers fell before my weapon...the mighty

ON SALE MAY 1